Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /036 W

-----067012 100940Z/21

P 100827Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4655

CONFIDENTIAL TRIPOLI 1054

FOR NEA/AFN

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CASC, PINS, MOPS, LY SUBJ: SITUATION IN EASTERN LIBYA

REF: STATE 186775, TRIPOLI 994

- 1. BENGHAZI IS ESSENTIALLY BACK TO NORMAL AND TENSION OF SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IS EASING IN ALL PARTS OF COUNTRY.
- 2. IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS SPLAJ AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN MORE ZEALOUS THAN USUAL IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL ALL COMMUNICATIONS IN AND OUT OF THE JAMAHIRIYAH. WHILE BENGHAZI TELEX WAS OUT OF OPERATION FOR SEVERAL DAYS DUE TO EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTION, WE SUSPECT CUTTING OF BALL TELEX IS ALSO DUE TO GOVERNMENT'S BELATED REALIZATION THAT TELEX MESSAGES WERE GETTING PAST THE CENSORS.
- 3. DIFFICULTY IN DEALING WITH OFFICIALS AND "DETERIORATING" SITUATION WE SUSPECT REFER SIMPLY TO WORK ATMOSPHERE RATHER THAN OVERALL SAFETY AND SECURITY. WITH SO MANY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CALLED INTO MILITIA, THE REMAINING BUREAUCRATS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL AND NATURALLY ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH.

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4. FYI: NO ONE FROM BALL SYSTEMS IS REGISTERED WITH EMBASSY BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT A JIM AYRES FROM BALL IS FREQUENTLY IN THE COUNTRY OPERATING THROUGH A RAMADAN BEN ISMAIEL IN BENGHAZI. COMPANIES LIKE BALL ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO MAKE THE PRESENCE OF THEIR PERSONNEL AND OFFICES IN THE COUNTRY KNOWN TO US. CARLE

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Message Attributes

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